

THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

AND ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

N E W S F L A S H E S

November 1 - 15, 1 9 3 5

NOVEMBER LOAN EXHIBITIONS: For the month of November, the central and north loan galleries will be hung with an important group of old tapestries lent for this occasion by Frank A. Vanderlip, Jr., of New York City. Mr. Vanderlip is well known in banking and collecting circles, and the group of tapestries forms part of the collection gathered by his family over a long period of years.

Tapestries were one of the most important contributions to decorative arts in the Gothic period and since that time have been highly prized for their beauty of texture, pictorial design and colour, and for their rich associations with the past. Unfortunately, the permanent collection so far includes only a few examples, although the Flemish "Christ Carrying the Cross" is one of the finest of the late Gothic to be found in America. Therefore, it will be a great pleasure to show an outstanding group of various countries and periods.

For the most part they date from the 16th and 17th century and are representative of many looms and types. There are Choufleur tapestries with the large cabbage-like leaves that give them their name, ones with hunting scenes, illustrations of mythological tales and biblical stories.

It will be an unparalleled opportunity to study the many weaves and the fascinating stories of these great wall decorations which were at one time the chief adornment of some medieval chateau or palace.

MRS. WILLIAM H. CHAPMAN MEMORIAL EXHIBITION: With the cooperation of Mrs. Henry D. Ashley, the Gallery is showing for the month of November in the south loan gallery, a selected group of furniture, china, glass and silver from the collection of Mrs. William H. Chapman.

Always one of the most sincere art patrons in Kansas City, it is doubtful if we shall ever know just how much Mrs. Chapman did during her life-time to foster an understanding of the need of cultural advantages in her adopted city. Her generosity to the Art Institute and to many of its students was only one expression of her ever vital interest.

Her taste turned instinctively to furniture, china and glass, and in the field of English art, her collection contains many distinguished examples. A round painted satin-wood table is indicative of the best of that type of work inspired by the Adam Brothers, and most of the important English factories are represented by excellent china tea sets, beautiful in their colour and painted designs. A group of porcelain figurines shows how well the English potters duplicated the Meissen prototypes. The silver includes Georgian pieces and rare examples from Ireland and Sweden. A series of varied shaped and inlaid wooden tea caddies forms a collection in itself.

It was Mrs. Chapman's expressed desire that part of her collection should find a home in the Gallery, and a number of the pieces exhibited now will be presented in her name by Mrs. Ashley.

KAETHE KOLLWITZ PRINTS: The blue print room will be hung for the month of November with a group of drawings and graphic work by Kaethe Kollwitz, perhaps the most powerful of the contemporary German print makers.

Born in Koenigsberg in 1867 of an artist mother, and sister of the editor of "Vorwaerts", she soon became a champion of the people. Her earliest interest was in the work of Hogarth and following his propagandist bent, she became interested in the passions, the trials, and the tribulations of the masses. She was one of the most powerful forces in the German social revolution of 1919-21, and with her hus-

Addams at Hull House in Chicago.

Her early works are devoted almost entirely to maternal subjects; then the loss of her son in the World War turned her to themes of sadness, of which "The Widow" is the first. The war series woodcuts are too fervent and sincere to be classed as propaganda, and express rather the suffering and anguish of the German people during this period. Her later work, leveled against the injustices of the social order, are comparable to the great works of Daumier, Forain, and Louis Raemaeker.

This exhibition, which is touring the country, is bringing a representative group of her work to America for the first time.

WEDNESDAY EVENING OPENINGS: The response of the public to the free Wednesday evening openings has been most gratifying. For the first evening and lecture, which was given by the Director, 350 visitors comfortably filled the Atkins Auditorium. The second Wednesday this was swelled to an audience of 375 who heard the splendid and instructive lecture by Mr. Sickman on the Scope of Oriental Art.

The subject for Wednesday Evening, November 6th, will be "Ancient Chinese Art", when Mr. Sickman will discuss in detail the bronzes, pottery, glass and jades of the Shang, Chow and Ching dynasties. The Masterpiece of the Week for November 3 will feature a group of Bronze Chariot Fittings recently discovered in Anyang. Numbering in all some 90 pieces, these bronzes were probably placed as decoration on the great two-horse chariot of some prince or emperor. Other museums have occasional pieces of bronze of this type, but this is the only known complete set which includes not only the chariot fittings, but also the bronzes that were sewn on the harness.

On Wednesday evening, November 13th, Mr. Paul Gardner will speak on the important special exhibitions of the work of Vermeer and Rembrandt which were held this summer in Holland and on the superlative new museum in Rotterdam which opened in July. The newest gallery in Europe, it marks a decided departure from the early, grandiose style, being simple and functional in architecture, and incorporating new ideas in lighting which are the finest yet evolved.

CURRY WATERCOLOUR GIFT: A center of great interest in the recent Benton-Curry-Wood Loan Exhibition, the watercolour "Battle Between a Stallion and a Jack" by the Kansas artist, John Steuart Curry, has been presented to the permanent collection by the Director, who purchased it last spring when arranging for the group of drawings and watercolours which formed a part of the show. One of the finest of the artist's watercolours, it will be featured as the Masterpiece for the week of November 10th.

APPOINTMENT: The appointment of Ruth Lindsay Hughes, who has been on the staff since before the opening of the Gallery, as Assistant in the Department of Near and Far East is announced.

COMMENDATION: The following comment was made in a letter from a member of the architectural office of Clarence Stein, who visited the Gallery recently in a tour of all American museums: "I still think your recessed show cases and the display windows in the Japanese gallery the best I have seen".

More naive is the observation of a recent American Royal visitor who declared that there were two things Kansas City had finer than anything he has seen elsewhere, the Nelson Gallery and our night clubs!

LOOSE COLLECTION: A selected group of jewelry and Japanese articles of the Tokogawa Period from the Mrs. Jacob Leander Loose Collection has been installed in the north corridor on the first floor.

LOANS TO OTHER GALLERIES: Our early "Saint Peter" by Velazquez and the fine "Saint Lawrence" by Alonso Cano have been lent to the Brooklyn Museum which is celebrating its architectural renovation by a great exhibition of Spanish art. Both of our paintings are reproduced in the special catalogue, and the Saint Peter was illustrat-

ed in the Art News of October 15th. Our Hubert Robert "Terrace of the Chateau at Marly" has been lent to the Metropolitan Museum for their French 18th century exhibition.

RECENT VISITORS: Mr. Miya of Osaka, Japan, spent a day recently in the Gallery. He was most pleasantly surprised at the superlative objects in the Chinese and Japanese galleries, but his greatest interest was centered in the Keeping Room of the American Wing. Here he examined every detail of the panelling and cooking equipment, as he has in Japan a peasant kitchen which is six hundred years old, and is particularly interested in primitive handicrafts. The ingenuousness of the candle mould and the candle stand with its arm which can be raised or lowered was of special interest to him.

Henry Varnum Poor, the distinguished American artist whose family still lives in the town of his birth, Chapman, Kansas, was a visitor at the Gallery last week. His portrait of "Ruth" was a featured canvas in the Midwestern Show last winter, and his paintings are in most of the public collections of America.

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LECTURE SCHEDULE

Gallery tours - Nov. 5 - Chariot Bronzes	- Mr. Sickman
Nov. 1 thru " 6 - American Indian	- Miss Hughes
Nov. 15 at " 7 - Japanese Art	- Mr. Sickman
2 p.m. No " 8 - English & French Painting	- Mr. Wittmann
charge to join them. Nov. 12 - Curry Watercolour	- Mr. Gardner
" 13 - Classical Art	- Mr. Freeman
" 14 - Chinese Bronzes and Painting	- Mr. Sickman
" 15 - Prints	- Mr. Wittmann
Evening lectures - Nov. 6 - Ancient Chinese Art	- Mr. Sickman
8 p.m. in the Auditorium. Nov. 13 - Exhibitions in Holland	- Mr. Gardner
No admission charge	

RADIO TALKS: Be sure to listen in on Station W9XBY at four o'clock on Saturday, November 2nd, for the broadcast of Gallery News. These short talks are a part of the program known as Janet's Club Calendar and will be given every other Saturday.